

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbon fuel oils, the method comprising mixing a liquid hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous solution, characterized in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises low odor kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62 °C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 1.4×10^6 to 2.0×10^6 , wherein the thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil provides improved adhesion to and absorption of fuel on charcoal and enhanced burning time and burn rates.

2. canceled

3.(previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

6. canceled

7. (currently amended) A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil, characterized in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises low odor kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62 °C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 1.4×10^6 to 2.0×10^6 , wherein the thickened homogenous solution provides improved adhesion to and absorption of fuel on charcoal and enhanced burning time and burn rates.

8. canceled

9. canceled

10. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 7, in which the polyolefin polymer is a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

11. (original) A composition according to claim 10, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

12. canceled

13. canceled

14. (currently amended) A barbeque lighting fuel comprising a composition according to claim 7 for use as a barbecue lighting fuel.

15. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 7 in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

16. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 15, in which the polyolefin polymer is a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

19. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 16, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

20. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of applying the thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil to charcoal for lighting purposes.